

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 PM-07 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2564

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, EC, UK

SUBJ: ECUADOREAN NAVY PURCHASE OF BRITISH FRIGATES

1. UNCLASSIFIED. EL COMERCIO OF SEPTEMBER 20 DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY ON PAGE ONE AN ARTICLE, DATED LONDON, QUOTING SIR ERIC YARROW (PRESIDENT OF YARROW SHIPYARDS) AS SAYING ECUADOR HAD BEEN OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUY TWO FRIGATES FOR \$125 MILLION. YARROW'S STATEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY MADE AT A CEREMONY DURING WHICH THE THIRD OF THE NEW "TYPE 21" FRIGATES WAS LAUNCHED FOR THE ROYAL NAVY. THE NEWS DISPATCH INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN YARROW AND THE GOE WERE FAR FROM COMPLETED, THEY SEEMED TO BE ON TRACK.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. IN FACT, NAVATT HAS LEARNED THAT THE ECUADOREAN NAVY IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW FRIGATES FROM YARROW. THEY WOULD BE THE NEW CLASS, NOT YET LISTED IN JANE'S DESCRIBED AS "TYPE-21"; 2100-TON DISPLACEMENT, TWIN ROLLS ROYCE GAS TURBINES WITH TWIN DIESELS. SINGLE 4.5" MAIN ARMAMENT, WITH FOUR "EXOCET" SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE MOUNTS, PLUS 40MM AND 20MM WEAPONS AND ONE ASW WEAPONS SYSTEM AND HELICOPTER PLATFORM. THE ECUADOREANS HAVE REPORTEDLY  
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BEEN OFFERED 10-YEAR FINANCE TERMS AT AN OVERALL 9 PERCENT RATE

OF INTEREST. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE COST, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL INCLUDE SPARES AND TRAINING PACKAGES. THE \$125 MILLION REPORTED IN EL COMERCIO SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. FIRST SHIP WOULD BE DELIVERED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE CONTRACT; THE SECOND ABOUT SIX MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

3. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ADMIRAL VASQUEZ, GENERAL COMMANDER OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY, IS PRESENTLY ON A SIX-WEEK VISIT TO EUROPE (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND TO BE PRIMARILY A FAMILY VACATION IN GERMANY.) IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE HIS RETURN.  
BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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